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50X1

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

4. Military Information

50X1

a. Soviet Tactical Units

[REDACTED] had no knowledge on unit designation, [REDACTED] major weapons, location of Soviet units, branches of service of any Soviet units, or change of locations of Soviet units. See Encl. A for a Polish Officer personality.

b. Soviet Administrative Personnel

[REDACTED] did not know of any Soviet personnel stationed at POZNAN, KOLOBRZEG or vicinity as members of a Soviet Control Commission, in charge of Military Farms or in any other administrative capacity.

c. Polish Army, Internal Security and Border Guard Forces

50X1

No information on Polish Army OB and T/O & E was given by [REDACTED] 50X1
He had no data on the Military Border Guard Forces (WOP - wojska Ochrony Pogranicza). One of his friends served in an unidentified Internal Security Corps (KBW - Korpus Bezpieczenstwa Wewnetrznego) unit in RZESZOW /N 50-03, E 22-00/. This friend was in the 1927 year class, and had been inducted in June 1947 at POZNAN. [REDACTED] 50X1
last heard from him in 1952. [REDACTED] could furnish no details on KBW organization, training or personalities.

d. Unit Movements

[REDACTED] had no knowledge of Polish or Soviet units moving into or out of the KOLOBRZEG and POZNAN areas.

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

e. Polish Army Induction and Demobilization

- (1) In 1947 (exact date unknown), [] received a post card 50X1 notifying him to report to the Regional Induction Commission (RKU - Rejonowa Komenda Uzupelnien) in POZNAN. Towards the end of the same year he was called before the Commission a second time.

50X1 [] reported to the Commission a third time he was with about 300 other men. He noticed that most of these men were from 1926-1927 year classes. He learned in conversation with the men that some were volunteers in the 1928 year class. The entire group was called for naval service.

50X1 [] for the first time, he was given a quick examination. One doctor checked height, chest, head, legs and feet; another examined the eyes and ears; while a third checked the heart and lungs. A military service book was not issued, but he did receive a certificate which said 50X1 he was fit for the "untrained reserve" and gave him a physically fit classification. He was then sent home. [] believed that about 15% of the men present for the first examination were rejected because they were physically unfit. Main causes of rejection were advanced stages of tuberculosis, heart trouble or poor eyesight.

50X1 The second examination in the latter part of 1947 was similar to the first. Those present for the first exam were also recalled at that time. Following the physical check-up, 50X1 [] was sent home, again without receiving a military service book.

50X1 [] he received a post card ordering him to report for induction (exact date unknown) and to bring along his school certificate, certificate of employment, and residence registration card. Upon reporting, he was inducted into the navy. No examination was conducted. [] knew of no circulars concerning induction into the armed forces. 50X1

- (2) He did not know anything about demobilization of year classes. However, he did mention the case of a friend who served in the army. A member of the 1927 class, he was inducted in POZNAN in June 1947. He served with an U/1 Engr. Unit in KOSZALIN [N 54-12, E 16-11], and was discharged as a corporal in 1950.

He heard from friends in 1953 that officers and NCOs were called back for a month of reserve training a year after being discharged and for three months of training during the second year following their discharge.

He knew of an unidentified naval NCO who was discharged after serving in the navy's administrative section for three years, and then called back to active duty because of a shortage of trained naval NCOs.

- 50X1 (3) [] was able to give the following information as to length of service and requirements for various military branches of the service:

(a) Infantry

The length of service was two years, but he heard in 1953 that it was extended to three years.

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CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

Four years of elementary school was required. Membership in the Polish United Workers Party (PZPR - Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza) or the Polish Youth Union (ZMP - Związek Młodzieży Polskiej) was not required.

(b) Artillery, AAA and Armored

The length of service was two years, but he heard in 1953 that this was also extended to three years.

Four or more years of elementary school was required, but PZPR or ZMP membership was not.

(c) KBW

He believed the length of service was two years.

Four or more years of elementary school was required, but PZPR or ZMP membership was not.

(d) Labor Battalions

Length of service in these units was two years. [] said that Poles of German descent were drafted into the battalions. They worked in coal mines and on the construction of airfields and military barracks.

f. [] had no knowledge of any organized groups which were resisting communist control.

g. [] was unable to draw any barracks sketches.

5. Miscellaneous Information

a. Role of the Polish Army

[] stated that he was taught during political indoctrination lectures that the Polish Army would fight together with the "People's Democracy" and the Soviets to defend its homeland against attack from American imperialists. In 1951, 80% of the communist propaganda and political indoctrination given during political training was not believed. However, in 1953, men of the armed forces believed more of the propaganda, because the younger generation had been thoroughly indoctrinated in schools and youth organizations and was easier to convince.

b. Morale

Sailors complained about long training hours in 1951, but did so only between themselves. No one would dare to complain openly because they were afraid of being sentenced by courts martial to prison terms for treason or sabotage. They also complained about the pass policy - only 30% could get passes on Saturdays from 0800-1200 or 1200-2400 hours. Only in exceptional cases, such as a visit from his family or his wife who came from another town, could a man get a weekend pass.

Religion was not officially forbidden. Sailors who received Sunday passes from 0800 to 1200 could go to Church. Holy pictures and crosses were forbidden in the barracks. Men were told by the political officer that those who practiced no religion felt offended by the pictures and crosses. He had no knowledge of the reaction of soldiers or civilians to curtailment of religious services.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

c. Service to Poland (SP - Sluzba Polsce)

50X1 [redacted] believed men and women 18 years of age and older had to join the SP. Members had to undergo two or three months of training, which included instruction in the KBK, M-1938 carbine, close order drill and political lectures. They worked on farms, on bridge construction and in shipyards. In addition to checking the merchant navy ships' electrical systems and engines, SP men also cleaned the ships.

After completing the training phase, members could volunteer for an officers' school in any branch of the service. [redacted] heard 50X1 that SP members had to submit a letter of recommendation from the SP headquarters of the various units in which they served when applying for an officers' school. He did not know to which army authorities the letters were submitted. Active SP members had top priority for these schools and could also choose the branch of 50X1 service they wished to enter.

Membership dues paid by SP members were not known to [redacted].

d. ZMP

He stated that the ZMP was formed from the Union of Fighting Youth (ZWM - Zwiazek Walki Mlodych), a communist organization which was formed about 1944 in WARSZAWA. Men and women from 16 to 30 years of age were accepted as ZMP members. They had to give the following information in applying for membership: name, date and place of birth, marital status, schooling, knowledge of languages, parents' occupations, relatives or friends in western countries, and membership in an organization of youth movement. After 50X1 receiving the applications, the ZMP chairmen for the particular cities sent letters to applicants accepted.

50X1 [redacted] carrying
50X1 [redacted] cargoes of coal, wooden barrels of an u/i chemical powder, wooden boxes of textiles and machinery, medical instruments from Sweden, and pipe, iron, tin, and wire, from Holland - from July 1952 to February 1953. (The [redacted] was 1,400 tn.; port of registry, GDYNIA.) He said that if a man was up for membership, the candidate had to appear before a board of ZMP members aboard the vessel. He had to tell about his life history, party affiliations and parents' occupations. Each board member could question the candidate.

ZMP members had priority for officers' candidate schools. They had to submit a letter of recommendation from the ZMP to be accepted as candidates. The following requirements were necessary: seven years of elementary school, knowledge of the history of the Communist Party in Poland and the USSR, and ability to pass an examination (details of which were unknown to [redacted]) 50X1

Dues paid by ZMP members amounted to one zloty per month. 50X1

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

50X1

f. Passive Antiaircraft Defense

50X1 [] had no knowledge of antiaircraft guns emplaced to protect industrial or communication centers, of early warning systems, of blackout of industrial centers at night, or of air raid shelters being built or existing shelters being reconditioned.

g. Restricted Beach Area

50X1 [] said that civilians were allowed on only a small part of the beach in GDYNIA. This sector was open to them from 0700 to 2200 during the summer. He did not know how long it was open to them in winter. The rest of the beach was marked by warning signs which stated that unauthorized persons were not allowed to enter the area, and that unauthorized persons would be brought before a military court. He did not know why the area was restricted or what went on within it.

h. Fire Prevention

A block committee (Komitet Blokowy) instructed civilians on fire prevention in 1953. He heard that a fire brigade was established in all factories and that its members gave workers instructions regarding fire prevention.

i. Civilians in Army Uniforms

50X1 [] observed civilians wearing Polish Army and Navy jackets, trousers, overcoats and shoes on the streets of GDYNIA and POZNAN in 1953. He believed the army and navy uniforms were sold by RA officers and EM. The uniforms were worn out and were sold so their owners could get money to buy new ones.

He stated that uniforms were taken back from EM upon release from service. Men had to have their own civilian clothes before they left.

j. Foreign Broadcasts

50X1 In 1953 [] along with an officer and an EM listened to VOA and Radio MADRID while on the [] There was a great deal 50X1 of jamming. Although sailors listened to the broadcasts they were not mentioned or discussed by them.

While serving [] he was able to listen to Radio 50X1 Free Europe and Radio MADRID in the home of his brother-in-law. He said he enjoyed listening to the truth about the communist regime in Poland and to news of desertions from the Polish Army and Navy.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

k. The Case of the "Zura"

The Polish naval ship, "Zura", on which all officers and sailors were members of the PZPR or ZMP, left KOLOBRZEG for GDYNIA in 1950. After leaving port, the ship changed course. Seven crew members mutinied, broke into the arms room, seized small arms, and forced the master of the ship to sail it to Sweden. Upon arrival, they asked for political asylum, and together with five other crew members, remained there. The ship and the rest of the crew returned to Poland upon release by the Swedish government.

50X1 [redacted] was ordered by his CO to attend a military court martial in the Naval Headquarters building in GDYNIA. There the CO of the "Zura," his executive officer and the rest of the crew were tried. The CO and executive officer were each sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, while the crew members received six to 10 years. The ship's political officer received 12 years' imprisonment. The 12 men who remained in Sweden were tried in absentia and were given death sentences. The men of the naval observation post in KOLOBRZEG were sentenced to five years in prison.

50X1 [redacted] said that in his summary the chairman of the court said that the officers and crew were given such long prison terms because they did not take up arms and defend themselves against the mutineers. It was argued that the behavior of the commander and his executive officer was not that expected of Polish naval officers in command of an entire crew.

50X1 [redacted] later heard from friends that the ship was renamed Aga II.

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50X1

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